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Title: Requests to withdraw the decision of closure of the Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research, a division of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation in West Bengal.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Sir, it is a matter of great concern to the people of Durgapur in West Bengal. It has been learnt that the Government has already decided to close down the Fertiliser Promotion and Agricultural Research Division of the Hindusthan Fertiliser Corporation. A proposal to this effect is being placed before the Cabinet.

After rendering valuable services towards promotion of balanced use of fertilisers among farmers, which attracted foreign collaboration and aid for fertiliser education projects to the tune of Rs. 98 crore enabling this Division to continue its useful services in a self-sustaining manner for two decades, it is very unfortunate that this organisation would face such a fate. The importance and justification for continuation of the activities of FPARD for the promotion of balanced use of fertilisers cannot be overemphasised. Parliamentary Committees and agricultural experts have also recommended expansion of such balanced fertiliser promotion programmes, which have been carried out by the FPARD.

Under these circumstances, I solicit all possible help and immediate steps by our Minister. So, I urge upon the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers to withdraw the decision of closer and to provide adequate funds to FPARD so that the farmers can get proper training and know-how technology from the scientists of FPARD. This is my submission.